

REMARKS

This application was filed with 41 claims. Claims 6-41 were objected to for being in improper form. Claims 1-5 have been rejected. Claims 1-41 have been amended. Therefore, Claims 1-41 are pending in the Application. Reconsideration of the application based on the remaining claims as amended and arguments submitted below is respectfully requested.

Amendments to the Specification

Amendments to three paragraphs have been made so that terms used in the specification agree with terms used in the claims.

Claim Objections

Claims 6-41 have been objected to as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim cannot depend from another multiple dependent claim. Claims 6-41 have been rewritten in proper form. Other amendments have been made per the Examiner's suggestions regarding Claims 1-5.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicant has amended Claims 1-5 per the Examiner's suggestion to clarify the subject of the claims. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims under § 112 be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hsu. However, Hsu does not disclose every element of the claimed invention. Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the one or more handles are reversibly moveable between a stored configuration and a deployed configuration. (815 Application p. 2, ll. 2-9). The Hsu handle (40) is fixed and designed for ease of moving the portable version of the escape device from one location to another. "To further facilitate carrying purposes, a handle 40 is attached to the upper horizontal beam 24 of the carrier 20." (Hsu col. 5, ll. 20-22). Claims 2-5 depend from Claim 1. Thus, Hsu does not disclose every element of the claimed invention.

The rejection of Claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) should be withdrawn.

Applicant has commented on some of the distinctions between the cited references and the claims to facilitate a better understanding of the present invention. This discussion is not exhaustive of the facets of the invention, and Applicant hereby reserves the right to present additional distinctions as appropriate. Furthermore, while these remarks may employ shortened, more specific, or variant descriptions of some of the claim language, Applicant respectfully notes that these remarks are not to be used to create implied limitations in the claims and only the actual wording of the claims should be considered against these references.

REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

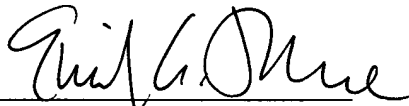
Pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.136(a), Applicant petitions the Commissioner to extend the time for responding to the March 31, 2003, Office Action for 3 months from June 30, 2003, to September 30, 2003. Applicant encloses herewith a check in the amount of \$654 made payable to the Director of the USPTO, including \$465 for the petition fee for a 3 month extension.

ADDITIONAL CLAIMS FEE

In addition to the extension fee, the enclosed check includes \$189 additional claims fee for 21 claims in excess of 20. (21 x \$9 = \$189).

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with the filing of this Response to Deposit Account 23-0035.

Respectfully submitted,



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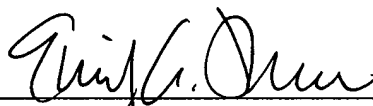
CERTIFICATE OF FIRST CLASS MAILING

I hereby certify that this Response and Amendment, along with a check for \$654 for the 3 month extension fee and the additional claims fee, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

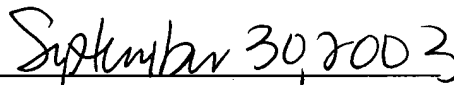
on September 30, 2003.

Emily A. Shouse



Signature

Registration Number 44,336



Date